

# The American Archivist

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## The American Archivist

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**Cover note:** In his "International Scene" article, Don C. Skemer discusses the potential value of the centuries-old European auxiliary science of diplomatics for the keepers of modern archives. Featured on the cover is the frontispiece to Dom Jean Mabillon's *De re diplomatica libri VI* (Paris: L. Billaine, 1681). The engraving, designed by Pierre Monier and executed by Pierre Giffart, presents the book's Latin motto, *Veri, justique scientia vindex*, i.e., "Knowledge is the defender of what is true and just." Within the imposing Romanesque doorway of a seventeenth-century monastic archives, two figures in the center symbolize trust and justice, while to each side archives researchers study a volume of bound documents and a scroll. (Courtesy of the New York State Library.)

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